Telling Your Story Through a Watershed Plan Funding Application

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Watershed Planner Training
January 30, 2007

After you have....

- Identified a WQ concern
- Determined objectives
- Inventoried resources
- Analyzed the resource data
- Formulated alternatives
- Evaluated alternatives
- Decided what needs to be done and able to be done....

THEN

You are ready to develop an <u>effective</u> water quality improvement plan and implement that plan (e.g. your story)

Situation:

- You have a watershed plan
- It is ready to implement
- But you need resources to implement the plan (your story)

What options are available to get the resources needed to implement your project?

One option—

The Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB)

What is WIRB?

- WIRB is a 15-member appointed board representing agricultural, commodity, environmental, and water groups as well as IDALS and DNR. Four legislators are also appointed to the Board.
- WIRB is an independent, self-governing Board with administrative support provided through IDALS-DSC.
- Created in 2005.

What is WIRB cont.

- Appropriated \$5 million in 2005 and 2006
- Board is responsible to award water quality improvement grants to projects
- Eligible applicants are:
 - Soil and water conservation districts
 - Local watershed improvement committees
 - Nonprofit recognized by the Sec. of State
 - Majority of members "represent the impairment"

Making an application to WIRB 2006 Criteria

- 1. Accountability—financial responsibility
- 2. Assessment—WQ impairments/concerns
- Goals—clear, target impairment(s)
- Results—appropriate, realistic, quantitative or qualitative, reduce the targeted impairment(s)
- 5. Collaboration/Local Leadership

Making an application to WIRB 2006 Criteria

- 6. Leveraging/Cost Effectiveness—is this water resource a priority to others? Are other resources being provided? Have costs for alternatives been evaluated?
- 7. Project Monitoring—evaluate project implementation and results achieved
- 8. Outreach—before, during, after project
- 9. Innovation—new methods, cost reduction

2007 Criteria

- Board has not determined, however it is anticipated that:
 - Request For Applications (RFA) will have a similar timeline as 2006—late spring/summer
 - Tweaking of RFA rather than reconstruction
 - May contain a checklist of requirements
 - Follow the instructions
 - Be timely
 - Be concise

In Summary

- Use the watershed planning protocol
- Develop an <u>effective</u> watershed plan (e.g. your story)
- Identify resources needed and sources to obtain those resources
- Submit an application to the funding source telling <u>your story</u> and meeting the <u>application</u> <u>requirements</u>

For Additional Information

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